have been amended, stream IV has been added under the title "Provision of broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner". The USOF is working on a scheme for providing Financial assistance by way of subsidy for the broadband active infrastructure such as BTS (Base Transceiver Station) and by utilizing the existing passive infrastructure available with the Telecom service providers.

3. State owned Public Sector Unit, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has identified around 25,576 rural exchanges and has placed order of 1.6 million ports for deployment of broadband services and rural areas.
4. The Government has approved a Common Services Centres (CSCs) Scheme for providing support for establishing 100,000 Common Services Centers in 600,000 villages of India. The Scheme, as approved by the Government of India, envisions CSCs as the front-end delivery points for Government, private and social sector services to rural citizens of India, in an integrated manner. The objective is to develop a platform that can enable Government, private and social sector organizations to align their social and commercial goals for the benefit of the rural population in the remotest corners of the country through a combination of IT-based as well as non-IT-based servcies.
5. It is proposed to setup a National Knowledge network for providing broadband connectivity to knowledge Institutions in the country.
6. Department of Information Technology (DIT) has been promoting research and development in the area of Convergence, Communication and Broadband Technology as one of its major activities. Under this programme during the last three years, eight projects covering the area of Broadband Technologies have been funded.
7. Various exemptions in duties and taxes have been proposed in the Budget 2008-09 for Electronics/IT Industry.

Statement-II

Details of State-wise Broadband subscribers as on 31st December 2007

Sl.No.	State/Telecom Circle	Broadband Subscribers
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar	964
2	Andhra Pradesh	23409
3	Assam	12475
4	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	37278
5	Delhi*	40905
6	Gujarat	18862
7	Haryana	40218
8	Himachal Pradesh	6693
9	Jammu & Kashmir	9597
10	Karnataka	33193
11	Kerala	14030
12	Maharashtra (including Goa)	65430
13	Madhya Pradesh (including	80738

*Includes Noida, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Faridabad

1	2	3
14.	North East**	4856
15.	Orissa	20973
16.	Punjab	106892
17.	Rajasthan	57934
18.	Tamilnadu	406654
19.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	110641
20.	West Bengal	165273
	TOTAL	30,19,521

**Includes Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland & Tripura

Issuance of Excess Spectrum

2188. SHR1 NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that excess spectrum has been issued to some private GSM operators in excess of the license agreement;

(b) if so, the amount of loss incurred by Government thereon;

(c) whether any action is being initiated against the officials responsible for issuing excess spectrum to the private GSM operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d)The initial spectrum has been allotted to the GSM operators based on their request and as per provisions of their respective Service Licensee Agreement subject to availability of spectrum. With growth of their services, additional spectrum, beyond the initial spectrum, has been allotted to GSM operators as per guidelines, orders and subscriber based eligibiltiy criteria in force at the time of allotment of such additional spectrum subject to its availability. Increased rate of revenue share is levied towards spectrum charges on total spectrum which includes additional spectrum.

The annual spectrum revenues have increased about 80 times during last decade.

Dilution of Government's Equity in BSNL

2189. SHRID. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to dilute its 10 per cent equity in BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that BSNL has sufficient cash balance to provide for any expansion projects; and

(d) if so, the details and reasons for considering dilution of its equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) At present, BSNL will be able to meet the expansion plan out of internal resources and external borrowing.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Poor network of BSNL Mobile Service in Gujarat

2190. SHRIVIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for poor network and performance of BSNL Mobile Service in Gujarat, inspite of Gujarat a highly revenue generating State in India;

(b) whether Government is aware that poor, old type and insufficient machinery is responsible for such poor performance in Gujarat, the reasons for such partiality to Gujarat;

(c) if so, the action plan for betterment of BSNL Mobile Service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is working satisfactorily in Gujaat and is, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (Qos) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

BSNL network is of latest State-of-art Technology. BSNL is augmenting its mobile network progressively so as to enhance coverage, capacity and to further improve the Quality of Service. BSNL is also optimizing its network continuously for its performance. Monitoring of the network has also been strengthened to ensure performance as per the Qos parameters prescribed by TRAI.

Process of E-Governance

2191. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of e-governance has started in the area of communication between various Ministries/departments of the Government and various State Government;

(b) if so, the manner in which the concept of e-governance is being executed;

(c) the details as to electronic method adopted at services rendered by the Ministry; and

(d) the details thereof including feedback received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) To provide